

2975 Laurel Street #20  
San Diego, California 92104  
March 9, 1988

Readers Write  
The San Diego Union  
Post Office Box 191  
San Diego, California 92112

Dear Editor,

I noticed that on the same day that you printed the story about the City Council waiver of fees for the display of the NAMES Project Quilt, you also printed a letter from Patricia Houser who was "outraged" at such a "ridiculous expenditure of City funds". She asked, "Are we to believe that these are the names of heroes and they should be honored?"

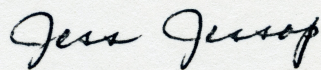
The people who have died of AIDS may have very well been heroes to their families, friends and life partners. As a nurse I have had contact with many people with AIDS who were indeed heroic in their response to terminal illness in the prime of their lives. But quite aside from that, the AIDS Memorial Quilt is a very powerful instrument for focusing attention on the enormous loss that AIDS has brought to the human community.

The Quilt personalizes an epidemic that has for too long been only a distant statistic to many Americans. The Quilt has provided an avenue for survivors to work through their grief in a most creative way. The Quilt opens hearts, bridges gaps, and softens feelings.

The Quilt would be especially helpful to Ms. Houser in dealing with her outrage. I hope she will see it during the San Diego display. She will never be the same again.

Yes, the people who have died of AIDS should be honored, if for nothing else, for what they endured in a climate of fear and stigma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jess Jessop".

R. "Jess" Jessop